

UNCLASSIFIED

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NNNNVV ESA7530ZB103  
 00 RUESBA  
 DE RUESUZ 5662 1892015  
 ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
 O R 082005Z JUL 77  
 FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2664  
 INFO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 2197  
 RUESUA/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 8022  
 RUESUP/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 8965  
 BT

BRASILIA 5662

E.O. 11652: GDS  
 TAGS: SHUM SREF BR AR  
 SUBJECT: ARGENTINE REFUGEES ARRESTED IN SAO PAULO

REF: (A) STATE 154430 (B) BRASILIA 5566

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO.

BEGIN SAO PAULO MESSAGE:

1. JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION REP INFORMED CONGEN OFF JULY 7 THAT MIGUEL RICCI AND ELSA BREGA DE RICCI WOULD PROBABLY BE RELEASED JULY 8 THROUGH INTERCESSION OF ~~PRIM~~ OF UNHRC. ~~PRIM~~ TOLD JUSTICE AND PEACE REPS THAT RICCIS WOULD BE SENT TO COUNTRY PREPARED TO RECEIVE THEM RAPIDLY, PROBABLY SWEDEN. THEY WOULD NOT BE REPATRIATED.

2. ~~LEARNED~~ FROM POLICE SOURCES THAT RICCI'S PICKED UP IN <sup>B1</sup> GENERAL POLICE SWEEP OF ILLEGAL ALIENS. RICCI APPARENTLY HAD PERMANENT RESIDENCE DOCUMENTS, BUT WAS PICKED UP BECAUSE HE HAD A DRAWING WHICH POLICE THOUGHT MIGHT BE MADE INTO A STAMP TO FORGE ENTRY VISAS. (POLICE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT RETURN TO BRAZIL OF BRAZILIAN COMMUNIST EXILES.) JUSTICE AND PEACE REP SAID THAT COMMISSION'S LAWYERS HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN GAINING ACCESS TO RICCIS, BUT POLICE WOULD ALLOW FAMILY MEMBER TO TALK TO PRISONERS. JUSTICE AND PEACE THEN SENT FOR RICCI'S FATHER IN ARGENTINA. AFTER LEARNING MORE ABOUT CHARGES, JUSTICE AND PEACE WAS ABLE TO REASON WITH FLEURY, MOST IMPORTANT DETECTIVE A SAO PAULO POLICE DIVISION OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ORDER (DOPS), UNDER WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY RECCI WAS HELD. THEY ALSO BROUGHT INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE TO BEAR THROUGH UNHRC. JUSTICE AND PEACE REP SAID THAT POLICE WERE EMBARRASSED WITH CASE BECAUSE THEY HAD TORTURED MIGUEL RICCI FOR INFORMATION ON BASIS FLIMSY EVIDENCE. THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING ABOUT CASE IN PRESS, NOR WILL JUSTICE AND PEACE PUBLICIZE IT. PERHAPS THIS REPRESENTS AGREEMENT WITH POLICE FOR RELEASE.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (3200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Graefel, Director

( ) Release (X) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s): B1

Declassify: (X) In Part ( ) In Full

(X) Classify as C ( ) Extend as    ( ) Downgrade to   Date 9/28/00 Declassify on    Reason 25X1

ACTION COPY

CU 185

TO	ACT	INF	TC
AMB			2-0
CCM			1-0
POL			1-0
ECOM			1-0
FOUR			1-0
CO-5			1-0
ADM			1-0
USIS			1-0
SCI			1-0
BY			1-0

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3. POLICE TOLD [REDACTED] THAT THEIR POLICY WAS NOT TO REPATRIATE POLITICAL REFUGEES, BUT THEY NORMALLY RAN A CHECK ON WHETHER ARRESTEES WERE COMMON CRIMINALS, WANTED IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. POLICE WERE AWAITING RESPONSE FROM ARGENTINE CONSULATE GENERAL WHEN PRIM [REDACTED] 86 INTERVENED. JUSTICE AND PEACE REP SAID THAT COMMISSION HAD NO INFORMATION THAT GOB WAS CONSIDERING REPATRIATING POLITICAL REFUGEES. THE COMMISSION HAD NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT GOB WAS MORE CONCERNED THAN IN PAST WITH POLITICS OF REFUGEES ENTERING BRAZIL AND WAS QUIETLY STIMULATING THEIR TRAVEL TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

4. POLICE TOLD [REDACTED] THAT SECOND ARMY COMMANDER, GEN. DILERMANDO GOMES MONTEIRO, HAD RECOMMENDED THAT POLICE LOOK THE OTHER WAY ON TEMPORARY PROBLEM OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS. JUSTICE AND PEACE REP SAID THAT MOST ARGENTINES CONSIDER BRAZIL A TEMPORARY HAVEN. THEY WANT OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE THEY FEAR THAT BRAZILIAN SECURITY SERVICES MIGHT PERMIT ARGENTINE SECURITY SERVICES TO REACH THEM HERE. THAT FEAR SEEMED FAR FETCHED TO JUSTICE AND PEACE REP.

5. COMMENT: AUTHORITIES IN SAO PAULO VIEW INCREASING NUMBER OF ARGENTINE REFUGEES AS CAUSING GOVERNMENT TWO PROBLEMS: (A) FEAR THAT THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO POLITICAL UNREST DUE TO THEIR PRESUMED LEFTIST POLITICS AND (B) SOCIAL/ECONOMIC PROBLEMS DUE TO DEPRESSED LOCAL JOB MARKET AND LACK OF DOCUMENTATION OF MANY ARGENTINES. THUS WHILE IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT GOB POLICY HAS CHANGED REGARDING POLITICAL REFUGEES, DICEY POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION HAS RESULTED IN MORE RIGOROUS TREATMENT OF THEM. END SAO PAULO MESSAGE.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: EMBASSY SHARES SAO PAULO'S VIEW THAT NO CHANGE IS IN THE OFFING ON GOB POLICY WITH REGARD TO ARGENTINE REFUGEES, PARTICULARLY THOSE REGISTERED WITH UNHCR. UNDECLARED, HOWEVER, WHO HAVE ENTERED AS TOURISTS AND SOUGHT TO MELT INTO THE GENERAL POPULATION HAVE BEEN AND REMAIN SUBJECT TO DEPORTATION AS COMMON ILLEGALS (ALTHOUGH IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT REMAINS LAX HERE), OR IN SOME CASES TO DELIBERATE REFOULMENT BY LOCAL SECURITY AUTHORITIES IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL. FOR FURTHER DETAIL SEE REFTEL B. END EMBASSY COMMENT.

JOHNSON

BT

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